Production of Lead-free Petrol

3727. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has signed an agreement for collaboration with M/s. Snam progetti for transfer of technology to produce lead-free petrol;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the use of lead-free petrol is likely to help reduce pollution caused by use of petrol with lead content and what steps are contemplated to produce such lead-free petrol on such a large scale so as to eliminate the use of petrol with lead content ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has signed an agreement with M/s. SNAM PROGETTI, Italy for obtaining a process license to manufacture 30,000 TPA of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ethera at its refinery in Bombay. The estimated cost of the project is approximately Rs. 32.7 crores and would be implemented in about 33 months.

(c) The steps for achieving reduction in lead level in Petrol so as to reduce pollution include the setting up of Reformer Units at Digboi, Barauni, Mathura Refineries and de-bottlenecking/modification to the FCC Units at HPCL's Bombay Refinery besides the setting up of 30,000 TPA of MTBE project at BPCL Refinery, Bombay.

Implications of dual pricing of LPG and Kerosene Oil

3728. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA :
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) What are the basic objectives of decanalising LPG and kerosene Oil and what are the implications in the dual pricing system of this commodity;

(b) Whether Government are aware that this would lead to large scale black-marketing of the products; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) In order to increase the availability of LPG and kerosene in the country in addition to what is available at controlled prices through Public Sector Oil Companies, Government has decided to allow their import and sale at market prices by private agencies. Measures to prevent diversion of lower priced products have been incorporated in the system. These include, apart from the provisions of various control orders, imparting of a colour to the kerosene sold through public distribution system and prescription of different design and capacity for LPG cylinders, valves and pressure regulators for private sector marketing.

Investment of surplus funds in Foreign Banks

3729. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI :
SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector units are not allowed to invest their surplus funds under portfolio management schemes in foreign banks prior to 1992;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Public Sector Oil Units parked thousands of crores of rupees in foreign banks;

(c) if so, under what authority various PSUs, specially ONGC and IOC did invest their surplus funds in foreign banks in 1990-91; and

(d) whether any punitive action has been taken against erring officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (d) Funds surplus to their requirements only were invested by